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President George W. Bush
The White House
16000 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I want to bring to your attention remarkable work being done by domestic automakers on alternative fuel vehicles. I understand last week you were given a demonstration of alternative fuel automobiles, including a converted Toyota Prius, on the White House lawn but there were no vehicles from Ford, General Motors, or Chrysler present.

During this year's State of the Union address, you said, "It's in our vital interest to diversify America's energy supply -- the way forward is through technology... We need to press on with battery research for plug-in and hybrid vehicles, and expand the use of clean diesel vehicles and biodiesel fuel." I fully support these goals and believe development of alternative fuel vehicles is the right approach to reducing our dependence on foreign oil and carbon dioxide emissions.

Last year during your meeting with the Big Three executives you agreed to find ways to work with the domestic auto industry. Advance research in alternative fuel vehicles is being conducted by all three companies and I have had the opportunity see them all.

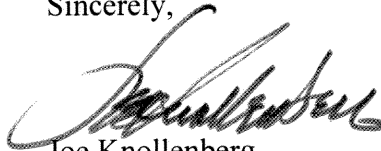
Ford has the Flexible Series Hybrid Edge which is a fuel-cell plug-in hybrid vehicle that is built and drivable. While it is a prototype, it provides a look into the future. It can be plugged into an ordinary household outlet to recharge. The Hybrid Edge is a zero-emissions vehicle and when the fuel-cell is operating, only water vapor is emitted through the exhaust system. This advanced powertrain delivers an EPA combined city/highway fuel economy equivalent of 41 miles per gallon.

Earlier this year General Motors also unveiled the concept Chevrolet Volt fitted with a battery-powered electric motor that can run the car for up to 40 city miles on a single charge. Considering more than half of Americans live less than 20 miles from their workplace, drivers could go to work and back on a single charge and may never need to use any gasoline at all. However, the Volt can be configured to run on electricity, gasoline, E85 or biodiesel, giving drivers the freedom to use multiple power sources depending on their driving needs.

Chrysler also has developed alternative fuel vehicles using clean diesel, including a new, clean diesel-powered Jeep Grand Cherokee which will be hitting showrooms next month. The diesel-powered Grand Cherokee provides a 30-percent improvement in fuel economy and 20-percent fewer carbon dioxide emissions compared to gasoline-powered equivalents. According to the EPA, America could save up to 1.4 million barrels of oil per day, an amount equivalent to the oil we currently import from Saudi Arabia, if one-third of U.S. cars, pickups and SUVs were diesel-powered.

It is clear that the domestic automakers have made innovative strides in alternative fuel vehicles. They deserve to be a part of the solution to our shared goal of reducing foreign oil consumption and harmful emissions. I urge you to take the time to view this American technology firsthand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Knollenberg", written in a cursive style.

Joe Knollenberg
Member of Congress